

East Family History Society, Research Manager's Report to AGM October 2024

Following on from last year's trip to Dundee records office, I had another opportunity to do active research when my brother-in-law, who lives in Perth, Western Australia, came to visit. His grandfather grew up in Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway, and we spent a weekend touring the graveyards and the local library. We were very lucky to find the house where his grandfather spent his teenage years and even more lucky to be invited in to see it. At the library, we found a book about the family (sadly out of print) and the address of the author. From the book, we were able to deduce a link between the Wallace Family and the East family – look out for an article in the next Points East.

Research queries have decreased considerably. All 5 queries have come from members via e-mail, and none have come via the website. Each query is an opportunity to add to our knowledge of East forbears. Lack of queries coming from casual users of the website means that we are not attracting potential new members this way.

So, my new venture as Research Manager this year has been the "East Ramblings", the first of which took place in September. I looked at the Census data for my hometown of Wallingford and produced a walk around the town. Three members joined me, and we had a pleasant walk and a pleasant lunch. It was a good chance for some collaborative research; the "Big Tree" got updated and we shared tips on how to use various data. I am planning two more rambles but, if anyone would like to use their town, or village, as a venue, I am happy to provide data for that.

The task of attaching certificates and other digitised information to the "Big Tree" is still ongoing. It is time-consuming and it is very easy to get side-tracked. For instance, among the death certificates for 1918-1920, there were two recorded deaths from influenza. We have some certificates for individuals, who aren't yet connected to the "big Tree". I am looking for volunteers to help me to find out more about them.

I continue to be grateful for Pam and Ken Pearce's support with the translation of wills. I want to publicly thank Jane Hepworth for donating some certificates this year and H. Andre East for sending me a copy of his latest book. I need to thank the Scottish Genealogy Society for including a reference to our website in their June newsletter and Paul Rolph for sending in his y-DNA results.

One of the aims of our Society is to collect all references to the East/ Este name and collate and store them for the use of members and researchers; please remember to pass such information to me. Donations of snippets from newspapers, certificates, photographs and family trees are always welcome.

Finally, if you are looking for events to encourage you to delve into your family history then I offer these as a theme:

- It is 200 years since the birth of the modern railway. Were any of your ancestors employed by the railways?
- It is the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Do you have pictures, or memories of the day, that you could share with other members?
- It is the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Were any of your ancestors involved?

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